

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling requests within an autonomic system, the method comprising the steps of:

handling requests with a primary handler;
detecting an overload condition for said primary handler;
directing requests to an alternative handler;
initializing a return timer;
when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler, routing requests to said primary handler;
automatically adjusting said time threshold for said alternative handler based upon a period using said primary handler;
detecting an overload condition for said alternative handler;
directing requests to another alternative handler;
starting another return timer, and when said another return timer exceeds a time threshold for said another alternative handler, routing requests to said alternative handler;
and
automatically adjusting said time threshold for said another alternative handler based upon a period using said alternative handler.

2-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a

machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

- handling requests with a primary handler within an autonomic system;
- detecting an overload condition for said primary handler;
- directing requests to an alternative handler;
- initializing a return timer;
- when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler,

routing requests to said primary handler; and

- automatically adjusting said time threshold for said alternative handler based upon a period using said primary handler;
- detecting an overload condition for said alternative handler;
- directing requests to another alternative handler;
- starting another return timer, and when said another return timer exceeds a time threshold for said another alternative handler, routing requests to said alternative handler;

and

- automatically adjusting said time threshold for said another alternative handler based upon a period using said alternative handler.

19-30. (Cancelled).

31. (New) An autonomic system of handling requests, the system comprising:

- a memory; and
- a processor configured to:
 - handle requests with a primary handler;
 - detect an overload condition for said primary handler;
 - direct requests to an alternative handler;
 - initialize a return timer;
 - when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler,

route requests to said primary handler;

 automatically adjust said time threshold for said alternative handler based upon a period using said primary handler;

 detect an overload condition for said alternative handler;

 direct requests to another alternative handler;

 start another return timer, and when said another return timer exceeds a time threshold for said another alternative handler, routing requests to said alternative handler; and

 automatically adjust said time threshold for said another alternative handler based upon a period using said alternative handler.